

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAMA KO 00900 01 OF 02 251740Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 /094 W
-----043142 251745Z /40/47

P R 241750Z FEB 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8684
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMA KO 0900

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT PARA 3

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ML
SUBJ: TENSIONS IN MALI'S MILITARY COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: RUMORS ABOUND IN BAMA KO DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES
OF DISSENSION IN MALI'S RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONAL LIBERATION (CMLN). PRESIDENT TRAORE HAS LEFT
CAPITAL CITY. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF INTERNAL TENSION, BUT
EMBASSY CONSIDERS AN OPEN BREAK IN MILITARY COMMITTEE UN-
LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCOUNTS ARE PROLIFERATING IN BAMA KO DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES
OF INCREASED TENSION WITHIN MALI'S RULING CMLN. ACCORD-
ING TO PREVALENT RUMORS, PRESIDENT TRAORE SOUGHT DISMISSAL
OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA AT CMLN MEETING WHICH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAMA KO 00900 01 OF 02 251740Z

PRECEDED JANUARY 7 MINISTERIAL CHANGES BUT WAS BLOCKED
BY DOUKARA SUPPORTERS LED BY CHIEF OF SECURITY SERVICES
BAGAYOKO. REPORTS SUGGEST COMMITTEE IS NOW SPLIT,
WITH PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION
YOUSSEF TRAORE AS STRONG MEN ON ONE SIDE; AND MINISTER
OF DEFENSE, CHIEF OF SECURITY SERVICES, AND LT. COLONEL
JOSEPH MARA AS LEADERS ON THE OTHER. THE PRESIDENT,

VARIOUSLY REPORTED AS SICK OR DEPRESSED BY INABILITY TO CONTROL CMLN, IS ABSENT FROM BAMAKO, POSSIBLY RESTING AT KAYES OR AT PRESIDENTIAL RETREAT NORTH OF SEGOU.

3. FOREGOING RUMORS EMERGE FROM LARGER BACKGROUND OF DIVISIVE FACTORS IN MALIAN BODY POLITIC. THESE INCLUDE:

A. FOOD SHORTAGE. ALTHOUGH FOOD PRICES ARE NOW DECREASING SLIGHTLY OWING TO EFFECT OF EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF, FOOD SUPPLIES ARE STILL SCARCE AND PRICES INORDINATELY HIGH. MANY MALIANS BLAME PRESIDENT TRAORE DIRECTLY FOR DECISION TO SELL EXCESS GRAIN ABROAD AFTER LAST TWO HARVESTS AND ATTRIBUTE PRESENT FOOD CRISIS TO THAT DECISION. HIGH COST OF FOOD REMAINS PRIME SOURCE OF DISCONTENT AMONG CITY DWELLERS.

B. GOVERNMENT WORKERS ARE STILL WAITING FOR WAGE INCREASE FIRST PROMISED LAST MAY 1. INCREASE PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENT WOULD, HOWEVER, MAINLY BENEFIT TOP BUREAUCRATS. GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS, IN SETTING UP 10-PERCENT INCREASE (TWO 5-PERCENT INCREMENTS OVER NEXT YEAR), ALSO CHANGED WAGE BASE LINE SO THAT TOP ECHELONS OF BUREAUCRACY WOULD RECEIVE INCREASES UP TO 50,000 FM A MONTH WHILE LOWEST LEVELS WOULD BE RAISED ONLY 3000 FM A MONTH. NATIONAL UNION OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAMAKO 00900 01 OF 02 251740Z

MALIAN WORKERS REFUSED TO SIGN GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL AND THREATENED TO TAKE TO THE STREETS IF DIFFERENTIAL WERE NOT SCALED DOWN. IT APPEARS THAT UNION HAS FINALLY WON CMLN AGREEMENT TO MODEST REVISION OF GOVERNMENT PLAN.

C. LEADERSHIP OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS. RECENT CONGRESS OF NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN ABRUPTLY TURNED BACK CANDIDACY OF FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL FATOU TALL, WHO IS RELATED BY BLOOD AND MARRIAGE TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND DIRECTOR OF SECURITY SERVICES. REPORTEDLY, WAS NOT MADAME TALL'S OBVIOUS INCOMPETENCE THAT OCCASIONED HER REMOVAL, BUT RATHER A FALLING-OUT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE, MIRIAM TRAORE. THUS, DESIGNATION OF LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION BECAME POWER PLAY BETWEEN FACTIONS OF MILITARY COMMITTEE. CHOICE OF LEADERS AT FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES OF YOUTH AND UNIONS IS LIKELY TO BE SIMILAR MATTER OF CONTENTION WITHIN CMLN.

4. COMMENT. RUMORS OF TENSION WITHIN CMLN BEGAN THE DAY COMMITTEE TOOK POWER AND HAVE USUALLY FEATURED PRESIDENT AND TWO OTHER MOST POWERFUL COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND DIRECTOR OF SECURITY SERVICES.
WE ARE INCLINED NOT TO BELIEVE THERE WILL BE AN IN-HOUSE
COUP OR COUNTERCOUP. BOTH PARTIES HAVE TOO MUCH TO
LOSE BY FIGHTING EACH OTHER. POTENTIAL FOR COUP CANNOT
BE EXCLUDED, HOWEVER; BAGAYOKO IS VOLATILE AND DOUKARA
AMBITIOUS. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS DISCORD WITHIN
CMLN AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT BOTH SIDES ARE SEEKING
TO GARNER POLITICAL SUPPORT WITHIN COMMITTEE AND AMONG
MILITARY UNITS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAMAOK 00900 02 OF 02 241909Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 /094 W
-----023526 242028Z /47

P R 241750Z BEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8685
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BAMAOK 0900

5. PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE FROM CAPITAL IS NOT NECESSARILY
A SIGN OF WEAKNESS OR DISCOURAGEMENT. ILL HEALTH, IN-
CLUDING STOMACH PROBLEMS, HAS OFTEN BEFORE FORCED BRIEF
SECLUSION OR ABBREVIATED WORKLOADS. EACH YEAR THE
PRESIDENT TAKES TWO WEEKS' VACATION AND MAY
HAVE DECIDED THAT NOW IS THE BEST TIME. WE WOULD EX-
PECT CMLN MEMBERS EVENTUALLY TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES

AND THE PRESIDENT TO RETURN TO GUIDE BUT NOT CONTROL
COMMITTEE POLICY.

BYRNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAMAKO00900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-1208, D780086-0774
Format: TEL
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780219/aaaaaprvtel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dedcdad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3494466
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENSIONS IN MALI'S MILITARY COMMITTEE
TAGS: PINT, MORG, ML
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dedcdad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014